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Soviet Imports of US Oil Field Equipment

US exports of oil field equipment in 1973 approximated \$400 million. The USSR accounted for one-fourth to one-third. Most exports to the USSR were for pipeline construction equipment (primarily tractors). In addition, Soviet orders in 1973 for delivery in 1974-75 were probably double that amount. The largest categories imported and ordered were for pipeline construction equipment, pipeline valves, compressors and pumping units, and oil and gas production equipment.

Most of the pipeline construction and operating equipment can be used in arctic or permafrost regions, but it can also be used in other climates and areas. Items in particularly short supply in the US -- drilling rigs, drill pipe, tubular steel, valves and fittings, and wellhead fittings -- have not bulked large in Soviet imports, but Soviet imports and orders aggravated the domestic shortage while price controls were in effect.

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